CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (NEW)

A1

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO 13 AUGUST 2003 OFFICE ACTION

5   3. (NEW) A method of allowing access to data over a distributed data processing system, comprising:

(a) providing an automated infrastructure for the exchange of information between multiple self-interested parties;

10

(b) providing a trusted server with at least one data warehouse for the storage of said information;

(c) associating a price rule with particular data records of said information

15   which establishes a cost of accessing said particular data records, and which controls the access to that data;

(d) wherein said price rule enables a data owner associated with said data to specify a different price for different types and amounts of information access;

20

(e) within said trusted server, providing a data processing platform which is accessible to multiple third-party data processing software programs which operate as software agents;

25   (f) wherein a plurality of seller-side software agents have defined relationships to said price rules and associated data records, and maintain absolute access control to said data records;

(g) wherein a plurality of buyer-side software agents have regulated query

30   access to said data processing platform and may request pricing information from said seller-side software agents;

(h) wherein said plurality of seller-side software agents and said plurality of buyer-side software agents operate as persistent data processing systems which

3

5   interact with one another repeatedly over time and which thus define a virtual marketplace.